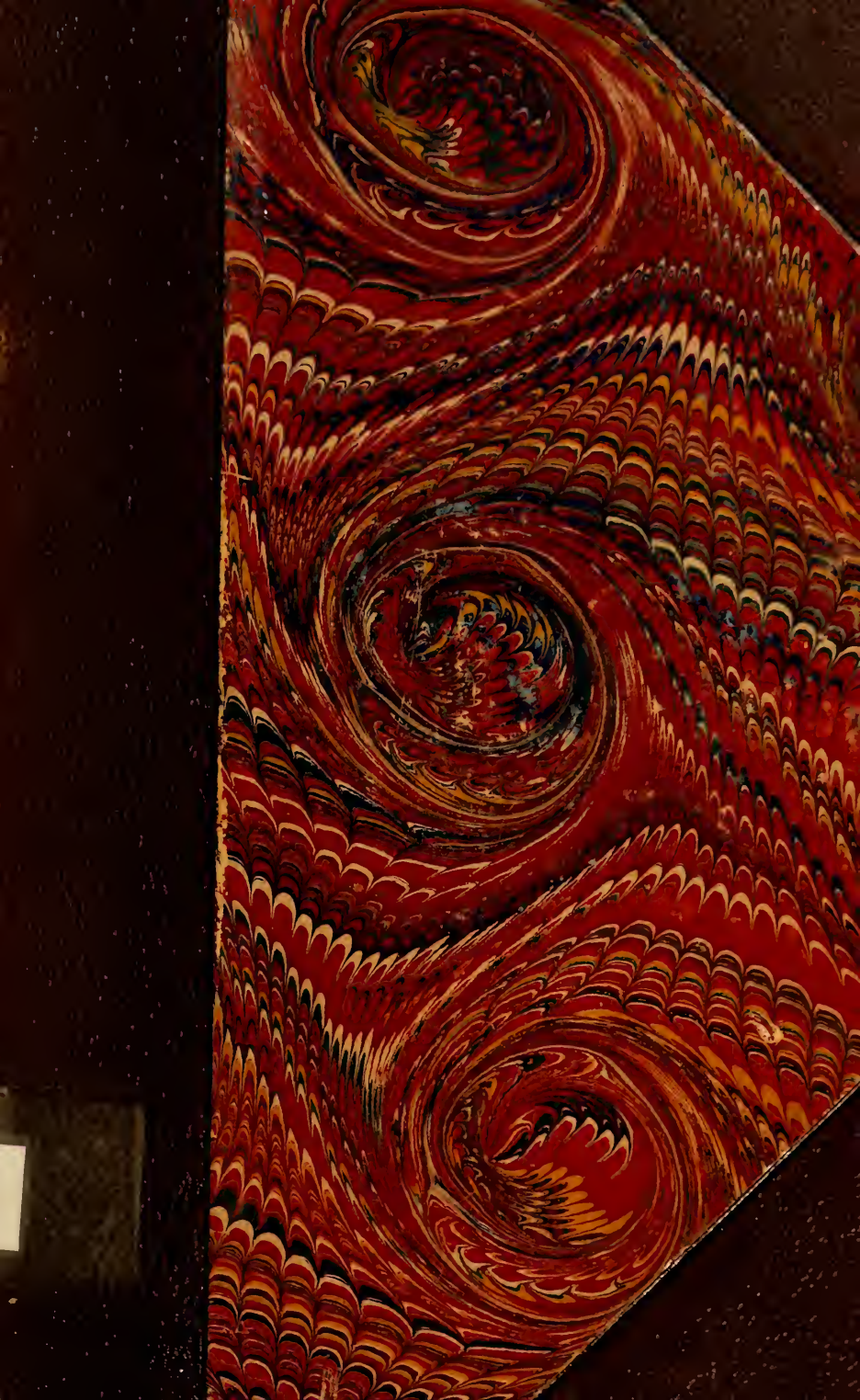




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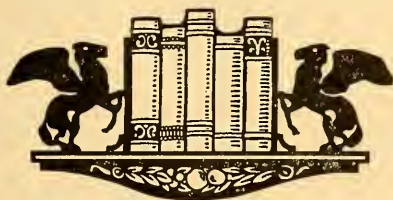
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The Blind.

OCCASIONAL PAPER.

No. 3.

JULY 20TH, 1898.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 25th to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Hon. Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

In the present number the special articles are on "Music as a Profession for the Blind," by Dr. F. J. Campbell, and on "Some of the Elements necessary for successful Workshops and Sale-rooms for the Blind," by Mr. A. Buckle, B.A.

A letter is printed from Mr. Stainsby who wrote the article on typewriting in the last number. It seems very necessary and important to ascertain, if possible, which machine is best adapted for the use of the Blind, as so many are now being taught typewriting.

There is also issued as a supplement to this number, a list of blind men who have been, and who are, resident at one of the Universities, together with details of the honours respectively obtained by them. There has been much difficulty in compiling this list, and although assistance has been most kindly given from various sources, it is feared that there may still be some omissions and inaccuracies, which if pointed out, shall be rectified on some future occasion.

In the next number, instead of any specially written articles, we purpose to print a translation of a paper called "What we wish for," which was read by the late Director Wulff, at the 18th Congress of Blind Teachers in 1895.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

Mr. Charles Smith, who is blind, has been elected chairman of the Urban District Council for Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire. He has for some years taken much interest in the public affairs of that District.

In the Yorkshire Choral Competitions recently held, the junior singing class and the quartet from the Yorkshire School for the Blind greatly distinguished themselves, and were awarded special prizes. Dr. McNaught, the judge, and no mean authority, commented on the pleasing character of the tone of the juniors, and said that "the eager, longing, sincere expression was delightful. No choir caught it better. They sang with their voices, but with their souls as well. They were the only choir that secured a real staccato, and there was commendable unity in the attack."

Two blind men were ordained deacons on Trinity Sunday—the Rev. T. Barnard and the Rev. C. E. Bolam. The former had the honour of being gospeller at Llandaff. The latter was ordained at Lincoln.

The paper on the care of the Blind in the Rhine Province, referred to in the last number, is again unavoidably crowded out.

The receipts for goods sold in the year just closed at the Edgbaston Institution exceed those of any previous year by £565. Seven additional blind workers have been employed, and the wages to the Blind have increased by £253. The subscription list has also increased by £250. Several important improvements have been recently made in this Institution in the instruction in music, by the establishment of classes for the study of counterpoint, composition, orchestration, &c., and in the art of teaching sighted persons. We are pleased to be able to report such noteworthy progress.

At the workshop for the Blind at Liverpool there are 150 men and 20 women employed, and there is no room for more. They all live at their own homes. There is a sick fund managed by themselves, and an annuity fund managed by the Committee of the Institution.

Dr. Rockliffe has published a very interesting and concise history of the Hull Blind Institution, founded in 1864. There are 27 men and 10 women employed, and the sales last year amounted to £1499. There is a Sick, Benefit, and Entertainment Branch, which benefits all the Blind of Hull, and through which about £250 a year are distributed. Money is now being raised to open a Home with accommodation for nine women in separate bedrooms, and a common sitting room.

In the Paris Exhibition of 1900, in Class III, there will be special exhibits in reference to the education of the Blind. A representative from Gardner's Trust for the Blind, and from the British and Foreign Blind Association were invited to, and attended, a Conference, summoned by the Education Sub-Committee of the Royal Commission for the Paris Exhibition, on June 8th, at the Foreign Office. The representatives were then requested to communicate with the various Institutions for the Blind, with the object of ascertaining from which exhibits would be sent. The Secretaries of several Institutions, although not as many as one could have wished, have expressed their desire to co-operate. A special Committee was appointed at the Conference in order "to prepare a paper of suggestions for the guidance of those desirous of contributing to the Educational exhibit," and this paper will probably be issued before these lines appear in print. As the exhibits in this section will be arranged alongside of those from other nations, and *not by themselves* in a space allotted to Great Britain, the comparisons of different systems and of the results therefrom will be more easily made, and therefore it is all important that the authorities of the various Institutions should co-operate in order to secure an adequate and comprehensive representation of the special

educational effort on behalf of the Blind in England. The exhibits from Wales, Scotland, and Ireland will, we understand, be arranged separately. A suggestion has been made, and favourably received, that there should be a preliminary exhibition in London in the course of next year of all the Educational Exhibits sent in.

The following translation by Mr. A. Buckle, of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, of a passage from M. de la Sizeranne's "Mes Notes" will, we feel sure, be read with interest, and will be thoroughly endorsed by our readers, especially the last paragraph. Those who know M. de la Sizeranne are fully aware of his energy and lifelong work on behalf of the Blind. In August, 1885, the Editor had the pleasure of going with him and the late Dr. Armitage to visit the Institution for the Blind at Utrecht, and afterwards they three ascended the 458 steps of the detached tower of the Cathedral, where the Editor described the grand panorama that lay before them, and answered to the best of his ability the numerous questions put to him by his two blind companions.

"The public is easily moved to sympathy for the Blind; for Blindness is one of those infirmities which one dreads most, either for oneself or for those whom one loves. Now fear is an excellent sentiment for disposing one's heart, always a little selfish, to pity. Only this pity requires to be enlightened and directed, and this is the mission of the intelligent friend of the Blind who thoroughly understands the work of the Blind.

The first thing to be done is to prove that when the Blind are carefully taught, the products of their labour are not matters of wonderful curiosity, as some regard them; but they are genuine business productions with intrinsic value, just as much as the productions of seeing labour.

The corollary of this demonstration ought to be to obtain work for the instructed Blind. When anyone is met with, showing sympathy for the Blind, and it is felt desirable at once to make use of this sympathy, to excite still further pity for their lot, and only *money* is asked for as one would ask for money

to found a hospital for the sick, the old, the infirm, who are incapable of work, not infrequently alms are received ; but the alms collected in this way is what I call a revenue from lost funds. In fact the produce of this sympathy which you have inspired for the Blind is considerable, but the capital of that sympathy is annihilated. The time will come, sooner or later, when the blind in whom you are interested will need work, and they will not be able to find it from those people, who have given the alms, because they have not been accustomed to consider the Blind as producers of genuine saleable goods.

Have you observed this fact ? If it is a question of large towns, it is almost only among the middle classes and small shopkeepers, that the blind tuners of pianos and, specially, blind teachers of music, are able to obtain customers. On the other hand if they are living in a small town or in the country they succeed in obtaining pretty good custom in the chateaux and amongst the aristocracy. I know that this may be explained up to a certain point and in different ways. One of the chief causes would be that in large towns the aristocracy (either of family or fortune) is constantly sought out for the Blind, and that more or less intelligently. That is to say the friend of the blind seeks above everything to get the largest possible collection, troubling himself very little, that the donor should clearly understand why he is giving or should perceive the distinction, in appearance a subtile one, between the blind provided for in hospitals and those who acquire a trade or profession, which becomes for them a means of existence. Those who ask for assistance for the Blind trouble themselves as little to make it understood, for what the donation is given, as those who give the donation ask above all not to be kept too long, and prefer very much to give without understanding, rather than submit to an explanation. But what is the consequence ? It is, that the time when we come to speak to persons, who have been so secured as donors, to employ as a music teacher or tuner, a blind young man, they refuse ; for that would be to introduce into their drawing rooms one of those blind beggars whom they meet in the street, one of those " poor blind " for whom their pity has been excited, but they can never

consent to confide the musical education of their children to a blind man.

This is the reason why a friend of the Blind should on no pretext be indifferent to the question of patronage; he should study it, know it well, and have it always before his mind, whether he is begging or getting another to beg, for blind children, or for the aged Blind; to maintain a school, a workshop, or any other thing; he should do it with intelligence, tact, and propriety; he should take the trouble, to make the purpose of his begging understood by a very short and very clear formula, in always taking care to remind them, that with the Blind it is by working that they gain their living, as it is among all other people. It must be said and repeated always and everywhere, that it is not the blindness itself, that brings suffering to the Blind, for to that they become accustomed. But it is the economic consequences which it carries along with it in society; to feel himself unable to work; or what is still harder to bear, *to feel himself capable of working, and to see work refused to him on account of his Blindness*; this is the cruelty, and this is precisely what it belongs to the public to alleviate or to banish altogether."

MUSIC AS A PROFESSION FOR THE BLIND.

Music, when properly taught, is the most remunerative profession for the Blind, and yet in all countries many who have tried to earn a livelihood by music have failed. Their failure is due to the following reasons:—

1. In the selection of pupils for the profession, the musical ear rather than the mental capacity was considered.
2. The physical and intellectual powers of the musical students were not developed.
3. The musical instruction and practice were insufficient, both in quantity and quality.
4. The opportunity of hearing music in its highest forms was not afforded them.
5. They were not trained in the art of teaching, especially in the best method of giving instruction to seeing children. To

become successful in the profession, it is necessary for the Blind to have opportunities of instruction, practice, study, and hearing music equal to the seeing with whom they will have to compete in the open market. A National College of Music for the Blind in any country should afford the pupils opportunities equal to those enjoyed by the seeing in the best Conservatories of Music in that country. In all branches of the art, the services of the very best Professors should be secured. If the blind musician is to rise above mediocrity, systematic musical instruction in childhood is indispensable, and good instruction will avail very little, unless the practice is under constant and judicious supervision.

No amount of teaching, even the best, can take the place of regular, intelligent study and practice. It is commonly supposed that the Blind are indefatigable in their efforts to learn, especially music. After many years experience, however, I am convinced that it requires more effort to obtain thorough *systematic* work from blind than from sighted students. Teachers of the Blind not only require patience, tact, and ability, but they need a large reserve of enthusiasm to arouse and call into activity the dormant faculties of their pupils.

No musical talent, however great, justifies the neglect of mental culture. Sighted teachers of music can, and often do, succeed without broad culture; but with the Blind, special intellectual development is indispensable. The musical education must be based upon a thorough general education, solid, well-balanced, and comprehensive. The aim should be to develop the powers of observation, train the reasoning faculties, cultivate the power of clear and concise expression, and stimulate a love of literature and good reading.

A practical system of education which has for its object to make the Blind independent and self-sustaining, must be based upon a comprehensive course of physical development. As a class, the Blind have much less vitality than the seeing, and this lack of physical power leads to indolence, timidity, and discouragement. The Blind must be roused from their willingness to depend upon others, and made to believe in the possibility of

independence and success. It is the lack of energy and invincible determination, not the want of sight, that has caused so many failures among the Blind.

Parents and friends can do much at home to assist in the practical success of the Blind. As stiffness, awkwardness, and all distortions of the features detract from the best performances, free and graceful movements are essential, and with care these can be more successfully cultivated at home than at school. As a rule, there will not be more than one or two blind children in a family, and if each member of the family makes it a special duty to assist the blind child, the result will exceed their most sanguine expectations. Whoever trains a blind child to use his fingers skilfully, either at work or play, is practically preparing him for pianoforte playing, while those who encourage him by foolish praise, to drum tunes on the piano, are unfitting him for proper musical study.

Blind persons who intend to follow music as a profession must have well-disciplined minds, capable of analysing and dealing with music from an intellectual point of view. If the mental faculties have not been developed and thoroughly disciplined, the blind music teacher or organist, however well he may play or sing, will generally be a failure. Even with superior mental training, the musical instruction must be more thorough, more analytical, more comprehensive than corresponding instruction given to seeing students. The musical instruction in its several branches of harmony, pianoforte, organ, and vocal culture, should be addressed to the mind, and not merely to the ear. This is the only possible method by which musical training can be made of practical use to the Blind. The indirect instruction is scarcely less important than the direct, and the latter is by no means complete without it. Concerts, Recitals, and Lectures should be provided which will familiarise the pupils with the best works of the great masters and render their musical culture more comprehensive. At Norwood we have able Professors in every department, who give Recitals and Lectures as a part of their regular work, but in addition, our students have heard not only in the Crystal Palace and Concert Halls of Lon-

don, but in the Hall of the College many of the most distinguished pianists, organists, and vocalists both of Europe and America.

It ought not to be expected that good and successful blind teachers can be trained at less cost than seeing teachers. Institutions for the Blind, even if their means are limited can, at least, have good elementary musical instruction. In the first instance this may not produce so much effect on the public as choruses learned merely by ear; but in the end, such a course would promote the truest interests of the Blind, and ensure more liberal support.

The career of sighted persons is often circumscribed by defective training in childhood. If such are the results with the seeing, with the Blind the evil effects must be much greater. When the Blind have once contracted bad habits it is difficult, I may say almost impossible, to entirely overcome them. This conclusion is based upon personal experience. In childhood I entered upon the study of music with a zeal that knew no-bounds. I was ready for any amount of work, even the most tedious drudgery. Unfortunately the school where I was educated employed a teacher who was a good violinist, but not a pianist. By the time I was sixteen years of age, I had contracted a technic so faulty that years of pains-taking study, under the guidance of the best teachers, were scarcely sufficient to overcome the defects. This sad disappointment in the loss of the best years of my life, has exerted a controlling influence in all my endeavours to obtain a thorough training for the Blind from early childhood. If one teacher is employed for all the different departments, as piano, organ, violin, and other musical instruments, singing, harmony, counterpoint, and composition, is it reasonable to expect the blind students to compete with those who are taught by the first Specialists of the day in such Conservatories as the Royal Academy, Royal College, and Guildhall School of Music?

Without considering the defective teaching given to the Blind, it is emphatically asserted that they cannot succeed in the profession of Music; that they cannot obtain employment

owing to the prejudice of the public. Beyond all question, a prejudice does exist, and unfortunately, there is good ground for it. Appointments were sought for Blind organists who possessed very little education and refinement, who had no technical development worthy of the name, and who did not understand voice development and choir-training. They knew a certain number of hymns, anthems, and choruses from the Oratorios, but these were their stock-in-trade. Of course they failed, but *their failure was ascribed to their blindness, not to their lack of education and training.*

The Braille musical notation, which is now in common use in this and all European countries, can be both written and read by the Blind with facility. Every blind child, from the beginning, should be required to read his own music. It is less difficult for a blind child to master the Braille musical notation, than for a sighted child to overcome the difficulties of the staff notation.

The Braille system for literature and music was introduced into this country by the late T. R. Armitage, Esq., M.D. Through his wise, untiring zeal and noble generosity, every blind man, woman, and child throughout the English-speaking world can now obtain not only the best literature, but the best music in all branches of the Art. Through the ceaseless efforts of his wife and daughter, the work and usefulness of the British and Foreign Blind Association is constantly increasing.

Pianoforte tuning may not be considered a branch of the musical profession, but it is an excellent employment for the Blind, and one in which they have certain advantages. Many can be trained to become successful pianoforte tuners, when they have reached an age that renders professional training impossible. The Blind who wish to succeed as pianoforte tuners must not despise the drudgery of small details; they must serve a regular apprenticeship, and fit themselves for practical business; they must work a number of hours daily (under suitable tuition) for several years. Even if a good ear and other requisites are possessed, long tuition is necessary to bring the muscles of the hand and wrist under control.

The seeing who excel in the business go through a long apprenticeship, and we must see that the Blind have even more careful preparation. Our tuners have advantages which are not enjoyed by sighted apprentices in the pianoforte manufactory. They are taught to play, they have good instruction in singing, and their musical ear is carefully cultivated by daily choir-practice.

After a careful examination, every duly qualified tuner should be furnished with an official certificate, and tuners who cannot take the required examinations ought not to be allowed to impose upon the public. Pianoforte tuning will cease to be a good and successful employment for the Blind, unless the work is thoroughly and effectively carried out.

"Owing to the fact that there is but one blind person to one thousand seeing persons, it is a difficult matter to educate the community to discriminate between competent and incompetent blind workmen. A man possessing sight may do his work badly, yet this would not prevent another seeing man from getting employment. If a blind man attempts to tune or repair a piano, and fails to give satisfaction, it is then impossible for another blind man, however capable, to secure work in the vicinity."

The Blind cannot afford to do work which is not the best of its kind. We must raise our standard, and not be satisfied until the Blind, as a class, will consider it a disgrace to do inferior work. Our aim must be to produce earnest Christian men and women, thoroughly trained in prompt, business-like habits, well-developed physically, with impressible energy, dauntless courage, and bright hopefulness. If based upon the principles set forth in this paper, the Profession of Music in all its branches, offers great advantage to the Blind.

F. J. CAMPBELL.

SOME OF THE ELEMENTS NECESSARY FOR SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOPS AND SALEROOMS FOR THE BLIND.

The question seems to divide itself naturally into—

1. The workshops.
2. The workmen and their productions.
3. The salerooms.

1. **WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND.**—One of the most important questions under this head is: should large workshops for the Blind be advocated, or should smaller ones at a larger number of centres be recommended? There are important advantages connected with each. In discussing the question, the friends of the blind should bear in mind an important principle, which all who have given the cause of the blind due consideration, lay much stress upon, viz.: as far as possible to let the Blind live and work among their seeing fellows. This principle, as is well known, is carried out to its fullest extent in the kingdom of Saxony, which possesses the most complete organisation for the good of the Blind. Acting on this principle, three workshops, say of 20 workmen each, would be preferred to one larger workshop, with say 60 blind workmen. Further, three workshops, in three different towns, would be likely to stir up more interest in the work of the blind than one larger one. For it is important to bear in mind that, until the seeing can see and know for themselves by their own observation what sort of work the blind can do, there is a sort of latent disbelief in their minds with regard to the products of blind labour. They know from their own experience that sight is the most necessary sense for their own work, and they are not able to realize, without ocular demonstration, what the blind can do; circulars, speeches however fervent, advertisements will not convince them. They believe the blind can do some sort of work, but it is rough and badly shaped. I am only giving the opinions of intelligent thinking people, who have never seen really good blind work. Hence the value of smaller workshops in several places.

The great advantage of the larger workshop is that material can be bought in larger quantities, and therefore a little cheaper; and then, too, the principle of Division of Labour, which has done so much for advancing seeing labour, can be better carried out in the larger workshop. But the large workshop is apt to be regarded by the public as a manufactory in which the blind do very little work, or only some of the rough work, and it is certainly not advisable to congregate large numbers of the blind in any centre, far better for their welfare and the interest of the public to increase the number of working centres.

The question is sometimes asked, "How many seeing men should be employed in a workshop for the blind?" The only possible answer to this question seems to be "Just so many seeing workmen should be employed as are necessary for the successful working of the shop." A basket shop should supply everything made in wickerwork. Admittedly blind workmen cannot do everything, and therefore what they cannot do must be done by the seeing. At this Institution we find two seeing journeymen sufficient for our 12 blind workmen; but this cannot be regarded either as a maximum or a minimum for a shop in another neighbourhood. Local needs can only determine the proportion in any case.

A question with regard to blind labour may be referred to here, viz.; the use of frames and blocks for the purpose of enabling blind workmen to build up their work in good form. At one time there was an unaccountable prejudice against such apparatus. Why such things should be objected to in the case of workmen of any sort, blind or seeing, it is difficult to comprehend. In several instances blind basket makers are able by means of these blocks and frames to produce work quite as symmetrical as any seeing workmen can. Surely in this, as in all other matters, whatever we can give the blind workman, which places him on a level for the time being with his seeing fellows, we ought to hail with gladness.

2. THE WORKMEN AND THEIR PRODUCTIONS.—Let me point out here that I take it for granted that the workmen are well trained men, of varying capacity and ability. How such men are to be trained from boyhood cannot be discussed here. It

would require a paper to itself, to deal with so large a subject satisfactorily.

The question immediately before us would seem to be with our blind men in our shops, what are we to set them at work on? Can we make use of the principle of division of labour? We must, I fear, admit at once that we cannot make much use of it. Still something useful may be accomplished by it, especially where seeing labour is also judiciously combined with blind labour. Some blind men, especially those who have lost their sight in manhood, can only learn to do well simple square work like hampers and square travelling baskets—in some cases hampers only. But the same men, it will be found, can also do good work on such articles as garden seats, garden wind guards, and other such plain work. Clever blind workers can do the straight forward work of more complicated shapes, sighted workmen doing the finishing, or more difficult parts. But it is almost impossible to do more than indicate in what direction we should aim, special articles and special work must be left to the ingenuity of individual managers, who must necessarily have workmen of varying abilities, and capacities to work with. But the two main principles to guide us should be (1) to employ the men on work which they can do well, and (2) on which they can earn the best wages. These are the main principles to work on, but how they are to be applied must be decided often by circumstances for which it is impossible to make a hard and fast rule. One word may be said here with regard to wages. Undoubtedly the fairest method of remuneration is what is called “piece-work,” each man being paid for the work he does. Cases will arise where blind workmen can barely earn a living wage, paid at the ordinary rate of seeing workmen. In such cases it may be felt desirable to increase the wages. Whether more can be given will depend upon the resources of the Society carrying on the shop. If such a Society has charitable funds wherewith to give more, it is better to increase the rate of wages, than to add supplements by way of percentages. The difficulty in all wage supplements is to aid those, who really stand in need, without producing discontent in those who can earn a pretty good wage

without any charitable supplement. Discontented human nature is very much like the boy, who howls because Johnny has a bigger cake than he has, not because he has not enough for himself.

Punctuality and steady work should be insisted on. This caution is necessary, because I was once not a little shocked to find that the men in a certain workshop for the blind were allowed sometimes to leave off their work to smoke in an adjoining room, a practice which in no case should be permitted for one moment. And with regard to the work done, nothing less than each man's best should be insisted on. It is no kindness to pass over defective work. It only means getting the shop a bad name, loss of custom, and ultimately, loss of work.

3. SALE ROOMS AND SHOWROOMS.—The two most important questions under this head are :

1. What is the best position for them ?
2. To what extent should the work of the seeing be mixed with the blind ?

The first question will not require much time spent on the discussion of it. Experience has shewn abundantly that the best place is in the midst of the best shops in the town. The best customers must be accommodated with a saleroom in the street where their shopping is usually done. Charity, which will take us out of the way to spend a few shillings for the good of a cause, is by no means common. To open a saleroom in a side street at some distance from the good shops of the place, is the best way to ensure failure and disappointment ; far better open none at all ; to open a shop and fail does the cause much harm. To be successful then the location must be in a good shopping neighbourhood, with good window for the exhibition of goods. Care should be taken to have all clean, tidy and well dusted. If ill-shaped and poorly made goods are in stock, as they must be in workshops where learners are taught, such goods should not be brought prominently forward. Everything should be done in the shop which is usually done in other good salerooms to render the place pleasing and attractive.

An important question with regard to the saleroom, viz. : to

what extent the work of the seeing should be mixed with the blind, must now be dealt with. Two important principles should guide us here.

1. The shop, whether for Baskets or Brushes, should contain whatever is usually sold in such shops. The Basket Department must be able to supply whatever sort of Baskets and Wickerwork are required, and the Brush shop must be prepared to supply such things as wash leathers, sponges, floor cloths, housemaids' gloves, and all other materials that are usually purchased along with the brushes.

2. The second principle for our guidance is that work made by the blind should not be placed side by side for comparison with the seeing. Some of the work done by our best blind men will bear favourable comparison anytime with the low priced goods exposed in some salerooms. Work done by the seeing must be kept in stock to some extent; but we need not therefore place it side by side with the poorer work of our learners. And in no case should we allow customers to suppose that they are purchasing goods made by the blind, when in reality they are purchasing goods made by the seeing. The way in which some salerooms are filled by foreign made goods, and "sweated" goods from the Midlands, is nothing less than a scandal. I have heard of a well-known dignitary of the Church, who on enquiring in a saleroom in one of our largest towns, if all the goods in the shop were made by the blind, was amazed on being informed that nothing in the shop was made by the blind. Thereupon he said he should like to be shewn some article made by them, when the attendant brought from a back room a dusty poorly made article which she said was made by them. I have heard of another saleroom in the window of which could be seen only two articles made by the blind. Such things ought not to be.

The chief reason for so large a proportion of goods not made by the blind, being found in the salerooms in connection with our Blind Institutions, is undoubtedly the importance attached to a large turn-over. The person in charge of the saleroom is made to feel that an increase of wages depends on an increase of sales, and especially on an increase of profits. So, attractive looking Foreign work, or low priced work from the

Midlands,* is placed in a conspicuous position, and the goods made by the blind are left in the shade. Foreign made goods can be bought cheap, it is true, and so a larger profit made on them than on the products of blind labour. If it can be shewn that the larger profits, made by the sale of Foreign goods, promotes the employment of a larger number of blind men on other work, well and good; but then, call the sale shop what it really is, a "Basket Bazaar for the good of the Blind," and do not let the public buy their goods under the impression that they are purchasing products made by blind labour.

Speaking from experience, the following facts may be some guide in this matter. The sale of baskets at York in 1897 amounted to £1552. Of these goods £19 worth were Foreign made goods purchased at a local importer's; £23 worth were goods bought from other Blind Institutions; and £15 worth were goods made by former pupils working in their own homes. The other goods sold were entirely made in the Institution by twelve Blind Workmen, and two seeing, together with sixteen Blind learners.

An important item for stimulating the sale of goods is a well illustrated catalogue. The first one made use of at York was drawn up about 1875, and consisted of 24 pages; the sales that year amounted to £938. The one now in use, drawn up a year or two ago, contains 60 pages, and the sales last year were £1552.

In many places, advertising in the local papers is neglected, often on the ground of expense. This is a mistake. A fairly good weekly advertisement may be got in an inch space, which if contracted for, say for 12 months, will be secured for 6d. or 9d. a week. An excellent note in a prominent place in the advertisement is "*The Trained and Educated Blind ask for Work, not for Alms.*" If the local newspaper be a daily, there should at least be two insertions a week.

All these things being done, some of my readers I daresay will finish with the questions: Does it pay? Can you work with a profit? I admit these are difficult questions to

* Only a few weeks ago, chairs in wickerwork, and in various patterns, were offered us at Wholesale Prices, just half the printed retail price. They were said not to be "sweated work;" but on enquiring how many hours a day the maker (a seeing man earning 35/- a week) had to work to earn this sum, we were told he worked "all the hours he could get." If this does not mean "sweated work," one would like to know what it does mean.

answer, which, however, I must be allowed to say I never undertook to answer. In an Institution like ours, in which the expenses with regard to workshops, school, etc., are all disbursed from one centre, it is somewhat difficult to say. Our Treasurer, aided by the office and the auditors, do what they can to allot the expenses to the different departments, and at least we are certain we make no loss on the whole. This will, I am aware, not be considered satisfactory by some, who would measure success by profits. But surely success means attaining an aim. The aim of Workshops for the Blind is to keep our Blind Workmen in continuous and useful employment; if this can be done with a profit, all the better. If this can be done without a loss the aim is reached, and it is successful. Even if it is worked at a loss, and the loss is not a great one, who shall say it has not reached its aim?

A. BUCKLE.

BIRMINGHAM,

June 18th, 1898.

The Editor, "The Blind."

Sir,

A review of my Article entitled "Typewriting for the Blind" (which was inserted in your last number) appeared in the "*Leeds Mercury*" 4th of May from the pen of "A. H." After speaking generally in favour of the Article, he proceeds to criticise my choice of Typewriting machines. For the benefit of your readers who did not see the review, I quote the most salient points of the adverse paragraph.

"Having thoroughly tested the machines which he (Mr. Stainsby) recommends, I can only say that in my judgment they are not to be compared with the instrument upon which this Article is being written. In the first place they are all ribbon machines, and this machine is ribbonless. To the blind a ribbon is not only expensive, but also a nuisance. I used to use a ribbon a month, and they cost 4/- a piece. The type-bars of this machine rest on ink-pads. My first pair lasted me just 18 months, and cost the same price as a ribbon, viz., 4/-, so that here in 18 months is a money saving of no

less than £3 8s. The money saving, however, is of trifling importance compared with the saving of trouble. With a ribbon I sometimes found that after working hard for an hour or so, I had accomplished nothing. My sheets were all blank. Then at first, when the ribbons are new, the work is apt to be blotchy, whilst when they are old or slack the impression is very faint. There are many other advantages possessed by this machine over those mentioned by Mr. Stainsby. The 'Feed' is what I call infallible. Then the 'Line Spacer' is automatic, so that it is impossible to destroy work by writing on the same line twice. Another very important point is its portability. A handcart has to be chartered to convey certain machines recommended by Mr. Stainsby, whereas this machine can be packed in less than two minutes and carried in one hand."

From the remarks of "A. H." I conclude that he is not acquainted with the modern Remington machine (No. 7 and No. 8), for most of his adverse remarks certainly do not apply to them, e.g., the ribbons are only 3/- each instead of 4/-; they do not produce blotchy writing when new, and are in use for a long period before the writing grows faint, the ribbon-shifting arrangement being so perfect, that the ribbon is equally worn in all parts. The paper feed has never failed, and our Typists rarely forget to space between the lines, inasmuch as the spacing lever is handled each time the carriage is moved. With regard to the machine being used while the ribbon is not running, I have found that blind Typists instantly detect by the sound of the writing whether the ribbon is working properly or not. The weight of the Remington is somewhat against it, although the difference of 11 pounds between the weight of the Remington and the Williams (the machine "A. H." refers to) is scarcely sufficient to call forth the extravagant contrast he has drawn between them. The Hammond machine is barely two pounds heavier than the Williams.

The Williams is a machine of simple construction and good make, but no cheaper than any of the other standard machines, and I very much question whether it is anything like so durable. One of the chief differences between it and the Remington and

Hammond is that the inking is by a pad instead of a ribbon, and it is a moot point which is preferable—personally I prefer the latter. My greatest objection to the Williams is that unless modified, the scale cannot be used by the blind. Possibly “A. H.” has no occasion to use the scale on his machine very extensively, his writing consisting of ordinary work, such as Articles; but in a Typewriting Office where all sorts of displayed work are received and executed, a machine with a scale the blind could not use would hamper the Typists, and seriously affect their wages when pay-day came round. I should add that one of my chief reasons for advocating the use of the Remington machine for the Blind is that it is the only machine largely used by the public which is suited to their use; this is very important, for if we are to supply blind clerks from our Institutions, they must be trained to the use of one of the machines most used by the public. The Williams is one of the newest and least known of all the standard machines, while the Remington is undeniably the most popular, and has stood many years of severe testing. It is not to be expected that a firm possessing a particular type of machine will be willing to change it simply for the convenience of their Typist—hence my advocacy of a much used machine like the Remington. The Remington is moreover a machine which can be subjected to very hard wear; every description of work can also be executed on it whether it be the copying of ordinary MSS, tabulated work, legal and other copying with marginal notes, or the reproduction of copies by duplicator, lithography or carbon.

One word more, and I will close. If the Williams is so adapted to the use of the blind, how is it that Dr. Campbell has introduced some 70 Hammond machines into his College? And why also is the Remington the most popular machine at two of the chief Institutions in Scotland, as well as several of the largest Institutions in England?

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY STAINSBY,

Secretary, The General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham.

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES.

The following is a list of blind men who have been students at one of the Universities, and of those who are still undergraduates. The names of the latter are marked with an asterisk. It appears that 20 have been at Oxford, 7 at Cambridge, 12 at Durham, 7 at Dublin, and 1 at London University. All were apparently educated at Worcester College for the blind sons of gentlemen before going to an University, except those marked with a dagger (†), and the fact that many graduated in Honours, is a conclusive proof that blind boys can successfully compete with the sighted, and, with an University training, are enabled to maintain themselves in the various professions.

The Editor is much indebted to many correspondents for their assistance in making this list as complete as possible, and he will be further obliged by any omissions or necessary corrections being pointed out.

Barnard, Rev. T., Oxford. B.A., Fawcett Scholarship, £42, 1893.
Honour Moderations 3rd Class Classics, 2nd Class Honours Lit. Hum., 1895.

Beresford, Rev. J. J., Cambridge. 2nd Class B.A. Examination, (Law Tripos) 1878.

Cole, C. E., Oxford. B.A., 1897.

Constable, Rev. A. E., Durham. B.A., 1888.

†Corbett, S., Cambridge. Mus. Bac., 1873. Mus. Doc., 1879.

*Dexter, A. J., Oxford. Fawcett Scholarship, £42. Reading for Classical Honours (Lit. Hum.)

*Dixson, W. H., Oxford. Reading for Honours in Modern History.

Dowdeswell, Rev. T. B., Oxford. B.A. 3rd Class Honour School of Theology, 1891.

Dowdeswell, S., Durham. B.A., 1892.

Dyke, P. Hart, Cambridge. B.A. 2nd Class History Tripos, 1895.

Fawcett, Rev. C. E., Oxford. B.A., 1879.

†Furniss, H. S., Oxford. B.A. 2nd Class Honour School of Modern History, 1893.

Hamilton, W. H., Durham. B.A., 1895.

†Hamilton, S., Dublin. M.A., Scholar 1835. (*deceased*).

Jenkins, Rev. R., Durham. B.A., 1887.

Johnson, Rev. D. L., Oxford. B.A. 3rd Class Honour School of Jurisprudence, 1880. M.A., 1884.

†Johnson, T., Dublin. M.A., Scholar 1891.

Jones, J. P., Oxford. B.A. 1st Class Honour School of Modern History, 1888.

Laupmann, G., Cambridge. Mathematical Tripos. 2nd Class B.A., 1883.

Lear, J. P., Oxford. B.A. 2nd Class Honour School of Modern History, 1895.

†Levin, T. W., Cambridge. M.A. Senior Opt., 1861. Deputy Knightbridge Professor of Moral Philosophy, 1881-82.

- *Llewellyn, G. M., Oxford. Reading for Honours in Modern History.
- †MacDonald, W. A., Dublin. M.A., Scholar 1864.
- MacGowan, Rev. W., Durham. Entrance Scholarship, £30, School of Theology. B.A., 1881.
- McNeile, Rev. N. F., Dublin. Scripture Catechetical Prize and Certificate, 1866—2nd Class. Prize Logic, 1866. Hebrew Prizes, 1867, 1869, and 1870. 3rd Class Honours in Logic and Ethics in B.A. Examination, 1868. Downes Exhibition, 1869. 1st Class Divinity Testimonial, 1870. M.A., 1871.
- Marsh, Rev. F. T., Durham. Open Theological Scholarship, 1873. Exhibition, £30, 1874. B.A., 1877.
- Marston, Rev. H. J. R., Durham. Open Scholarship, £50, 1874. Bracketed 2nd Classical Scholarship, 1874. First-class School of General and Classical Literature (1st year.) University Classical Scholarship. Newby Scholar, 1875. Hellenistic Greek Prize, 1876. First-class in B.A. Examination. Fellowship, 1877.
- †Moll, F. H. L., Oxford. B.A., 1889.
- Nash, Rev. P. L. C., Durham. B.A., 1889.
- *Palmer, W. S. C., Oxford. Reading for Pass degree.
- †Pearson, A., London. Matriculated 1896.
- †Platt, J., Dublin. B.A., 1853.
- *Pope, G. C., Oxford. Reading for Honours in Modern History.
- Ranger, A. W. G., Oxford. D.C.L., M.A. 1st Class Honour School of Jurisprudence in B.A. Examination, 1875. 1st Class in the B.C.L. Honour Examination, 1876. Proxime Accessit Vinerian Scholar, 1877.
- Richardson, O., Oxford—1880—1882.
- Robins, Rev. W. H., Dublin. Scripture Catechetical Prize, 1871, B.A., 1872, M.A., 1876.
- Rowcroft, S. G. K., Durham. 4th Class School of General and Classical Literature (1st year). 3rd Class in B.A. Examination, 1884.
- Shaw, A. N., Oxford. B.A., Fawcett Scholarship, £42, 1889. 1st Class Honour School of Jurisprudence, 1893.
- Smith, James, Cambridge. B.A., History Honours, 1894.
- *Swayne, R. C., Oxford. Reading for Honours in Theology.
- Thorburn, J. W., Durham. B.A., 1895.
- Warmington, H., Cambridge. B.A. College Prize (£20), 1888. Mathematical Tripos 2nd Class, 1889.
- West, F. M., Oxford. B.A. Goldsmith Scholarship (£50). 3rd Class Classical Honours in Moderations, 1885. 2nd Class Honour School of Modern History, 1887.
- Whitehead, Rev. A., Durham. B.A., 1881.
- Whitehead, Rev. S. F., Durham. Scholarship (£20), 1879. 3rd Class School of General and Classical Literature (1st year). 3rd Class in B.A. Examination, 1882.
- Wolstenholme, W., Oxford. Mus. Bac., 1887.
- Wrench, B. T., Dublin. B.A., 1891.



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